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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Stefan KAUTZ; Matthias MARONDEL
Int'l App. No.: PCT/DE01/02153
Application No.: NEW
Filed: March 28, 2002
For: SWITCHING DEVICE WITH AN ACTUATOR ELEMENT
CONSISTING OF A SHAPE MEMORY ALLOY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

March 28, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with the attached revised Abstract.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A switching device, comprising:
- an actuator element including a shape memory alloy, into which an extended shape is impressed at an annealing temperature, the actuator element being connected to a movable contact part of a switching contact of the switching device; and
- means for heating up the actuator element above a temperature level bringing about an opening of the switching contact on the basis of a change in shape of the actuator element,